

rather neglected in the training of botanists so that very few people really know much about Lichens, and hardly see them in the field. The fact that Lichen taxonomy is very difficult (are there really as many as 15 000 "species"?), and that there are too few Lichen specialists in the world (no one, as far as I know, in South Africa) may have contributed to this situation. But in order to appreciate the importance of Lichens in nature and in science, a general knowledge of some of the more conspicuous forms should be helpful and could lead to increased interest. Hale's book should be an excellent guide. I consider it the most important basic text in English.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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